

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows:

Replace the paragraph spanning pages 4-5, between page 4, line 21, and page 5, line 7 of the specification with the following:

The method according to the invention makes use of the effect that magnetic particles change their properties when they are very close together. The magnetic particles that are close together ~~they~~ are under the influence of each other's magnetic fields. Because of this, the response of the individual particles to ~~an~~ external magnetic fields is changed due to the coupling with the magnetic fields of the neighbouring particles. By modifying the surroundings of the particles, a change in the distance between the particles and/or a change in the freedom of movement of these particles can be brought about in a targeted manner. The change in distance and the concomitant change in magnetic properties result in a different response to the applied external magnetic field in the magnetic particle imaging method. The different response is used to produce a contrast in the image. Preferably, the distance between the

particles is less than 10 times, preferably less than 8 and more preferably less than 5 times the average diameter of the magnetic particles. With distance the core to core distance is meant. The closer the particles are, the stronger the mutual magnetic interaction and the higher the change in magnetic properties for a given change in distance. At a distance or than 10 times the average diameter the interaction becomes relatively weak and a change in distance does not result in a large change in magnetic properties. Similarly, if the magnetic particles are very close or even clumped together the change in distance does not result in a significant change in magnetic properties for the purpose of imaging. Further, it is very difficult to move the particles from ~~each other~~ each other when they are too close. In view that, the distance preferably is at least 2 times, preferably at least 3 times and more preferably at least four times the average particle diameter.